



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## FISKE RE-ANTICIPATED

IN a recent number of this JOURNAL (April 13, 1922) Dr. W. R. Wells points out an interesting anticipation of the view of John Fiske on the value to the human species of its prolonged period of infancy. As Dr. Wells remarks, it is hardly likely that Fiske had read the English essayist of 1834, styled V. F.,—the less so as Fiske in the preface to "Through Nature to God" expressly claims originality for this contribution to the theory of evolution. But there is some likelihood that V. F. may have been acquainted with a passage in Herder's *Ideen*, of which an English translation appeared in London in 1800. The passage is in chapter 6 of Book iv, and freely translated runs as follows:

The first of human societies was that of the paternal household, a society bound together by the tie of blood, by confidence and love. In order that the wildness of human beings should be curbed and that they should become accustomed to this domestic environment and intercourse, it was desirable that the infancy of our species should last through many years. Nature (by this device) kept the group together through necessity and through tender bonds, so that it should not, as with the quickly maturing animals, scatter and forget itself. In this way, the father became not merely the sire but the educator of his son, as the mother had been his nurse; and thus a new element of Humanity was established. . . . We may say, accordingly, that *man is born to society*: a fact which is implied alike in the exceptional sympathy of human parents for their offspring, and by the years of the long human infancy.<sup>2</sup>

Of course, neither V. F. nor Herder gave this feature of human growth the evolutionary meaning which it has in Fiske's work. Neither goes much farther than to note the far-reaching utility of the arrangement; though Herder recognizes, as V. F. does not, its place in a series of natural stages, causally related.

In this very partial sense, Herder may also be credited, I think, with having anticipated the law of recapitulation, sometimes called Hæckel's biogenetic law. In opening chapter 4 of Book IV of the *Ideen*,—the thesis being that man is in some sort a composite or résumé of creation, and thus fitted to understand all other creatures,—Herder remarks that

The babe in the womb seems to pass through all the states that can pertain to any earthly creature. It swims in the water; it lies with open mouth, *etc., etc.*, . . . so man finds in himself all the animal instincts.<sup>2</sup>

This is recapitulation without heredity; and hence something quite different from the theory associated with the name of Fritz Müller or of Agassiz. But it is in a similarly truncated shape that

<sup>1</sup> From Suphan's edition of Herder's *Werke*, Bd. XIII, S. 159.

<sup>2</sup> Suphan, as above, p. 142.

the germs of this theory are commonly traced in the writings of Erasmus Darwin, Lorenz Oken, J. F. Meckel, St. Hilaire, d'Orbigny, and von Baer: and Herder's remark (published 1784) antedates all of these. The observation itself was probably not original with Herder, who was not a physiologist; but as far as I can trace any perception of the germ of its later significance, the trail seems to lead to Herder, and then vanish.

WILLIAM ERNEST HOCKING.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

---

### BOOK REVIEWS

*The Defective Delinquent and the Insane; The Relation of Focal Infections to their Causes, Treatment and Prevention.* HENRY A. COTTON. With a Foreword by ADOLF MEYER. Louis Clark Vanuxem Foundation Lectures at Princeton University, 1921. Princeton: University Press. 1921. Pp. 201.

Dr. Cotton's book summarizes in simple form his distinctive psychiatric viewpoint and methods together with such broader aspects of mental sanitation as would have special meaning to the cultivated layman. It is a very timely book.

The historical account of "insanity" in its social relationships omits consideration of the not unfavorable supernatural interpretation sometimes put upon it in pre-Christian communities. The chain and straw-bed period is distinguished as the "Age of Iron." The early type of hospital, substituting the strait-jacket for the cage, represents the "Age of Leather." The standpoint of this book is unqualifiedly against restraint, and emphasizes not less than this, the desirability of closer coördination between psychiatric institutions and those of general medicine. Various statistics on state hospitals and general population are presented. The quoted range per 100,000 inhabitants is from 374.6 in New York to 83.1 in Arkansas. Similarly, the number of institutional defectives per 100,000 ranges from 82.9 in Massachusetts to none in Delaware and New Mexico. The governing factors here are probably the elaborateness of the custodial systems and the complexity of social organization, rather than inherent differences in mental health. This makes "raw" statistics of state hospital and general population extremely difficult to interpret. A close relationship between psychiatric and correctional problems is emphasized. The strictly physical nature of all mental disease is another fundamental thesis. The tendency is to discount hereditary factors, and to attach less importance than is now frequent, to psychogenic factors. The endocrines are regarded